GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2638
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
KASHMIR ISSUE
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government`s attention was drawn to President Clinton`s remarks made during PM`s visit that `Kashmir remained a disputed territory` and that it was the `core issue` between India and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the Government`s response thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Government`s attention has been drawn to media reports attributing these remarks to President Clinton. At a Press Briefing, following the meeting between Prime Minister and President Clinton on 15 September 2000 in Washington, a senior US official stated that `the President`s use of that terminology in no way indicated any change in the U.S. position`. He reiterated the US position, calling for restraint, respect for the line of control, denunciation of violence, and at the appropriate time when the atmosphere is correct, a return to a dialogue between India and Pakistan.

The US also recognises that there is an incompatibility between continued violence in Jammu and Kashmir and dialogue, and that the level of violence must be reduced to enable a meaningful dialogue.

(b) Government has noted the clarification by the US side. Government`s position that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India is well known.